



Department Updates

September 2018

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Highway Department

Mark Servi Highway Commissioner

Our management team here at the Highway Department has undergone some changes. Gordy Nesseth has been promoted to the position of Operations Manager. He brings 28 years of experience to the position, having previously been our Bridge Foreman, Paving Foreman and Maintenance Foreman. He replaces Russ Marske, who retired in June after a career of 33 years with the Department, including the last 10 as our Operations Manager. Clay Paulson has been promoted to the position of Maintenance Foreman. I am excited to work with Gordy and Clay in their new positions as we continue to provide the full service work we do in constructing and maintaining the Barron County Highway System.

Our crews have been working on many projects on our system, the local city/town system and the state system. I have received numerous comments complementing our crew on the good work that they do. We are cer-

tainly fortunate to have the skilled crew members who can take on the variety of work that we do and accomplish it in an extremely professional manner. We strive to satisfy all of our customers and meet their project goals, no matter how big or small the project may be. Our mechanics continue to perform equipment maintenance and repairs in a timely manner to insure that we have the best up time on the equipment we need to complete the projects. Working together as a team greatly contributes to the success of the Department.

As we enter into the fall season, we have several projects on the County Highway System we will be undertaking. CTH NN from STH 48 to CTH C will be resurfaced. Partial funding of \$148,000 for this project comes in part from the Local Road Improvement Program, and the remainder of the funding is County funds. NN will remain open to traffic with flaggers controlling traffic through the work zone. CTH SS from CTH AA to Chetek will be resurfaced.

Funding for this project is all county funds. CTH SS may be closed for portions of the project, and when practical will be open to traffic with flaggers controlling the work zone traffic.

CTH G from the Polk County Line to USH 63 will have culverts replaced in preparation of resurfacing in 2019. CTH G will be closed during working hours as the crew replaces the culverts, and will also be closed for several days while the crew replaces the small bridge near

1/4 Street with a large culvert. We will provide advance notice of the project dates by using informational signing.

As always, please travel in road work zones with care. The men and women working to maintain and improve your roads depend on your actions to help insure their safety. Please be prepared to slow down or stop, and always follow the directions of the workers as they guide you through the work zone.

Finance Department

Jodi Busch, Finance Director

Summer has flown by in the Finance Department. We worked with CliftonlarsonAllen to finalize the 2017 audit, which was submitted to the State of WI – Dept of Administration on July 31st. We also worked with Sequoia Consulting Group, who was onsite for two days conducting the Indirect Cost Allocation Study. This plan was finalized in mid-August.

July also brought the start of the annual budget process. Budget Worksheets

were distributed to departments the week of July 9th and were due back to Finance on August 17th. Committee meetings are well underway to review and approve the departmental budgets. The first view of the budget as a whole will be in September at the Executive and County Board meetings. In October, a recommendation to the County Board by the Executive Committee will be given. Based on that recommendation, a Budget Publication will be developed and published in all County newspapers. A Public Hearing will be held on November 5th,

with the County Board approving the budget in early November. After approval, Finance will finalize the budget, file the appropriate reports with the municipalities and the State, and setup the budget in the financial software. About the time this process is completed, the auditors will be here again as they start the 2018 pre-audit in December. All of us in the Finance Department wish you a happy and colorful fall season.

Forestry

John Cisek, County Forester

Timber Sale Activity

- Rajek Sale: Sale is complete
- Beckers Gate: All wood has been hauled sale is complete.
- Ski –Trail Sale: Harvest is complete. Wood to be hauled.

- Silver Creek: This sale situated in Vance Creek Twsp., was impacted by straight line winds. The plantation was considered a total loss and was liquidated. Harvest has been completed.
- Wisti Storm Damage: Harvest and hauling is complete.

Timber Sale Opening

- On August 6th five timber sales

were offered on bids. Three were sold, two sales received no bids and will be re-advertised.

Grants

- The application for a Knowles – Nelson Stewardship grant to defray the costs involved with the purchase of the C.U. Lodge LLC property has been approved.

County Clerk

DeeAnn Cook, County Clerk

The August Partisan Primary Election had a turnout of approximately 15% of eligible voters and 23% of registered voters casting ballots. The Partisan Primary is the most complicated of all elections because of the number of contests / candidates and political parties involved. Election night call in sheet included 55 contests and 52 candidates, in addition to scatterings (write in's). Many contests had multiple candidates and many had no candidates. Either way, it was cumbersome and very time consuming taking in results so special thanks goes to Vonnie Ritchie, Jeff & Pam French, Margo Katterhagen and Julie Henningsen who volunteered their time helping Jess and I take in election results after the polls closed. Some of the larger

municipalities agreed to enter their results directly into WEC Canvass for us which was a lifesaver for this particular election.

WEC changed the way results are entered into Canvass on Election Night less than 24 hours before Election Day so we were a little apprehensive about the process but it went off without a hitch. Thanks to Program Analyst Jeff Sirek who helps us test the process prior to the closing of the polls then uploads results remotely on Election Night so our website results are close to real time.

In an effort to increase voter confidence and address election security, WEC proposed conducting a random post-election audit following the Partisan Primary. Audits were to be con-

ducted by the County Board of Canvass, but there was no additional funding provided. A survey concluded that most counties did not intend to conduct a random audit due to the lack of funding, but I proposed the idea to Canvass Board Members Bill Smith and Donna Miller and both were in favor anyway. We randomly selected a municipality and set aside their ballots and materials with the intention of hand counting the results to be sure they matched the machine results that were reported on Election Night after we finished canvassing the results. However, canvassing the results of the Partisan Primary took several hours and by the time we were finished, the decision was made to forgo the audit this time simply due to fatigue. We all agreed that in the future, we will gladly conduct a random audit.